

1931 STEREOPHONIC SOUND REPRODUCTION

A D Blumlein (UK) and Bell Labs.
(USA)

Stereophonic reproduction *per se* was pioneered almost simultaneously by Blumlein in Great Britain and at the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Blumlein's contributions are presumed to be described in his patents. He showed a complete system applicable to sound-on-disc motion pictures, including microphone arrays utilising bidirectional as well as omnidirectional microphones, transmission circuits, and disc recording systems utilising simultaneous lateral and vertical recording. Economic difficulties are believed to have prevented completion and commercial exploitation of these systems.

The recognised early systems approach to large audience stereophonic reproduction was a public demonstration of Bell Telephone Laboratories equipment under the guidance of Dr Harvey Fletcher on 27 April 1933. The Philadelphia Orchestra was in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia and it was reproduced in Constitution Hall, Washington, DC.

SOURCE: 'The history of stereophonic sound reproduction' by J K Hilliard *Proc. IRE* p 776 (May 1962)

SEE ALSO: A D Blumlein: British Patent No 394 325 (14 December 1931)

Also US Patent No 2093 540

'Perfect transmission and reproduction of symphonic music in auditory perspective' F B Jowett *et al* *Bell Telephone Quart.* vol 12, p 150 (July 1933)